

ONS000515
PATENT

S.N. 10/729,892

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are in the present application.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, and 10 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the claims.

Claims 2 and 7 are also amended to correct a typographical error. Support for the amendment to claims 2 and 7 can be found at least on page 6, line 7.

Claims 12-17 are cancelled.

New claim 18 is added.

Restriction Response:

The Office Action states that a three way restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to claims 1-11 (Group I), or claims 12-14 (Group II), or claims 15-17 (Group III). The Office Action also states that the current requirement is Final.

During a phone conversation with the Examiner, the Examiner indicated that it was not necessary for applicants to respond to this new restriction. However, applicants would like to point out that a three way restriction of this type is proper only when one of the three categories are unpatentable. Further, applicants believe that claims 1-11 are patentable as explained hereinafter. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that the three-way restriction is improper and respectfully request reconsideration thereof.

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35 USC 102 Rejection:

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Asano (JP05067715). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Amended claim 1 includes, among other things, mechanically removing a first portion of the main panel and leaving a second portion of the main panel to form a portion of the first lead extending greater than the first distance from the package body. Asano is silent on at least this step of mechanically removing a first portion of the leadframe panel and leaving a second portion of the leadframe to form portions of the leads. Asano discloses a method to use masking and etching to form the leadframe. Claim 1 also includes that the main panel should be no greater than a first distance from the outer edge of the main cavity and that the step of mechanically removing leaves a second portion of the main panel extending greater than this first distance from the package body. It is believed that this limitation of claim 1 is also not disclosed by Asano. Applicants teach on page 11, lines 4-9 that applicants' procedures facilitates blocking encapsulating material during the encapsulating step and also reduces the amount of mold flashing on the leads. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by Asano.

Claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 9-11 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Additionally, amended claim 2 includes forming the first distance no greater than approximately fifty microns. Asano does not disclose such a distance between the cavity section and the main panel. Applicants teach on page 6, lines 2-9 that one advantage for such a distance is to reduce mold flashing.

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Amended claim 6 also calls for mechanically removing by trimming. Asano is silent on using a trimming procedure to form the additional portion of the leads.

Amended claim 9 includes selectively forming the second portion of the main panel into a number of leads that is less than all of the plurality of leads. Asano appears to make all of the leads the same length, thus, Asano is believed to not disclose this step.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 9-11 are not anticipated by Asano.

New claim 18 includes, among other elements, mechanically removing a first portion of the main panel and leaving a second portion of the main panel attached to the first lead to form a portion of the first lead extending greater than the first distance from the cavity section. It is believed that Asano does not disclose at least this element of claim 18. Asano does not disclose mechanically removing a portion of the leadframe panel and leaving a second portion of the panel to form a portion of the lead. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Asano does not anticipate new claim 18.

First 35 USC 103 Rejection:

Claims 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Asano. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 5 and 8 depend from amended claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Asano can not anticipate claims 5 and 8.

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Second 35 USC 103 Rejection:

Claims 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Asano in combination with Kobayashi (United States patent no. (5,221,859)). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5 and 8 depend from amended claim 1 and include all the elements of amended claim 1. The deficiencies of Asano relative to claim 1 are explained in the traversal of the 35 USC 102 rejection of claim 1. Combining Asano with Kobayashi does not make-up for these deficiencies of Asano. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the combined relied on references can not anticipate claims 5 and 8.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant(s) made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. In view of all of the above, it is believed that the claims are allowable, and that the case is now in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Two independent and four dependent claims are cancelled and one independent claim is added resulting in two independent claims, ten dependent claims, and 12 total claims. Although it is believed that no fees are due for this amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1086.

If there are matters which can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
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